

Minutes
WBLUMC Board of Directors Meeting
March 24, 2020 7:00AM remote via conference call

Members Attending: Jeff Lantto, Pastor Bill Eaves, Bonnie Greenleaf, Amy Swanson, Margie Grilley, Julie Perreira

Absent: Al Rausch

Opening – Bill opened with a prayer

February 18, 2020 meeting minutes approved via email and posted on the church website.

Volunteer to Take Minutes – Margie

Agenda Items:

1) *Board opening.* Bill reported that there is no update on finding a replacement for Ginger Davis yet.

2) *Financial support to the church.* Bill reported that with church closed, we need to make sure people remember to keep up their financial support. Church has a locked mailbox that is regularly checked, and Carolyn Keith is keeping up with incoming checks. Bill may ask the board to write a statement to the congregation emphasizing the need to keep their giving current. Currently there is a mechanism in place for donating via the church website and via text. Amy suggested also setting up a button on the church's Facebook page to donate. Bill has reassured church staff that they will continue to be paid as long as we can (everyone is currently working from home). Bonnie said she is in support of continuing to pay staff.

3) *Endowment Committee update.* Jeff reported on the March 16th meeting. Due to the low number of applications this year, all grant requests were funded. These include:

- Worship & Music staff: purchase 4 new choral risers \$3748 & Sanctuary & building visual arts banners \$500.
- Missions: Common Hope trip & Rapid City Mission Trip \$8000
- Faith in Action: Century College Garden & gift cards for students \$1500
- Trustees: window blinds \$1800, computer infrastructure \$13,100, computer technical support \$6000, replace Library A/C unit \$1100.

Total requested was \$35,748. Bill talked about the need for missions to get their own budget in the future. Jeff discussed talking with the Stewardship Committee about giving through wills.

4) *UMC General Conference update.* The General Conference that was to take place in Minneapolis from May 5-15 has been postponed due to COVID-19, likely until

sometime in 2021. Jeff mentioned that there was a nicely written Star Tribune article on Sat. (3/21) on the General Conference.

5) *Growth Initiative*. Amy said that the scheduled March 21st pizza fundraising event for the White Bear Lake bands program has been postponed due to COVID-19.

6) *Safety and Security Plan*. The board was asked if a member would join the Trustees Committee and the Staff-Parish Committee in a joint effort to help develop a Safety and Security Emergency Response plan for the church. Jeff had asked Al but hadn't hear back. If he's not available, Bonnie volunteered. [Note: Jeff heard from Al after the meeting and he has agreed to serve on this project].

7) *Church Continuity Plan*. Bill reported that he is working with staff to create a continuity plan to address issues such as getting the mail, setting the thermostat, and other general church day-to-day business. Jeff asked if anyone had been hired for shoveling and mowing yet. Bill was not aware of anyone.

COVID-19 updates

Bill talked about the phone tree that was employed by staff to check on all church members. Most everyone has been reached. He made a list of older people who may be alone and will make additional calls to them.

Bill also talked about how he is using social media to reach members and stay connected through his nightly prayers and Sunday service. He said that the weekly eBlast will continue to go out.

He said that he's received monetary donations to be used for members who may need money or gift cards.

Next board meeting is Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00AM (place TBD).